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as may be to a cylindrical form, that there may be plenty of room for the digestive organs.

"The back should not be too long nor too short, for though length is favourable to an extended stride and rapid motion, yet it makes the horse weak, and unable either to draw or carry any considerable weight. On the other hand, if the back be too short, the horse's action must be confined, and short-backed horses in general make an unpleasant noise when trotting, by striking the shoe of the hind foot against the shoe of the fore one: and though they are in general very hardy, and capable of enduring much fatigue, and of living on but little food, yet a back of middling length is better by far than one immoderately short or long.

"The back should be nearly straight; when it is curved downwards, the horse is termed 'saddle-backed,' and though he is very easy to ride and pleasant in his pace, yet he is weak, and unable to carry a great weight. Sometimes, instead of being sunk, the spine is arched upwards, and the horse is said to be 'roach-backed.' He is the very reverse of the saddle-backed horse in every respect.

"The croup, or space between the termination of the loins and the root of the tail, should be considerable, and in a horse intended for quick work, it should run more in a horizontal than a perpendicular direction. In the Irish horse, this part is short, and instead of proceeding almost directly backwards, suddenly droops; and though such a conformation does not unfit him for trotting, or drawing, or even leaping, and is even an advantage for an upright leap, yet he cannot in the gallop compete with the English horse, whose croup is long, and very little inclined downwards.

"The quarters are never too extensive from before backwards, nor deep from above downward, nor are they ever too much spread out laterally. A great deal is done by the hind legs, and the quarters should in every case be as expanded and well furnished with muscles as possible. When the haunch bone projects more than usual, the horse is said to be 'ragged hipped,' and is commonly objected to for it. But as this bone, by spreading well out, affords plenty of room for the attachment of muscles, it cannot be said to be a fault. When it appears so, the loins are the seat of that fault. They are too narrow.

#### "THE FORE LEG.

"In the saddle horse, and where safety is desirable, the position of the fore leg is worthy of attention. It should be placed well forward, and descend perpendicularly to the ground, the toe being nearly in a line with the point of the shoulder. The pasterns should neither be turned in nor out. When they are turned inwards, the horse is in general very liable to cut the fetlock joint by striking the opposite foot against it. The draught horse may be excused though he leans a little over his fore legs, but the saddle horse will be apt to stumble if he does so.

"The shoulder should, like the hind quarter, be extensive, well covered with muscle, and in the saddle horse, where rapid and extensive action is required, it should slant from the withers to the breast. The neck should join the shoulder in such a manner as to seem to run into it. But the draught horse's shoulder should be, and usually is, more upright, that the collar may sit well upon it. The setting on of the neck is more distinct in the draught than in the saddle horse, the shoulder bone being more upright; and the muscles taking a different direction make the shoulder swell out abruptly, and form a seat upon which the collar conveniently rests.

"The elbow should be wide from before backwards—the space between it and the knee rather long, and well supplied with muscles—the knee should be broad from before backwards, and straight: when it is bent forward, the horse is said to be 'bent before,' and it is, in general, a symptom that he has endured some hard work, and his sure-footedness cannot be depended upon. When the knee is bent backwards, it is called a 'calf knee,' and though it is an ugly fault, I am not aware that it is any thing more, although it is possible there may be a little loss of power in the muscles that bend it. Below the knee the leg should be fine, and flat in back and front, and broad from

before backwards. The back tendons should stand equally well out from the knee to the fetlock.

"The pasterns in the very heavy draught horse, are, in general, short and nearly upright: and it is necessary that they should be so, in order to uphold his huge frame; but in the racer, they are long and slanting, in order that, by giving way at every step of the animal, the shock accompanying rapid motion may be destroyed. The purchaser must, therefore, look for a horse, whose pasterns have the proper degree of obliquity for the purpose the horse is to be used for. If the pastern be too long, the leg is very liable to strain, and even the horse to break down when urged to the top of his speed. If it be too upright, the action of the horse is *stilty*, and very unpleasant to the rider. And besides that, such horses are, from the concussion they are liable to, very subject to diseases of the bones below the knee, such as ring bones, splints, &c.

"The foot should be as nearly round as possible, smooth, and displaying no signs of brittleness by pieces being broken and chipped off by the nails; the sole should be but moderately concave; when flat it is objectionable, and particularly so in the heavy, high actioned horse, for there is then a probability of its becoming convex.

#### "THE HIND LEG.

"I have already spoken of the quarter. The part between the stifle and hock joint, commonly called the thigh, should be long, and, above all, supplied with abundance of muscle.

The hock should be broad from before backwards, because when it is so, it shows that a lever (the point of the hock) is long, and, consequently, the muscles that act upon it will have more power to extend the leg. And as it is by the extension of the leg that the animal is projected in the gallop and leap, it is of importance that the hock be broad, and the point projecting backward, in the horse wanted for quick work. The hock should likewise in the same animal be well bent under him. When the hocks lean towards each other, the horse is said to be 'cat-hamned,' or 'cow-hocked.' It is most common in ponies; but setting aside its ugliness, it is not a serious defect; indeed it is commonly thought to make the animal a good trotter. It is certain, that a hock bent outwards is more objectionable, for the weight of the carcass is then like a person placed between two stools. Below the hock, the back tendons and the pasterns should be the same as in the fore leg.

"Short as this account of the conformation of the horse is, it might have been still shorter, for it is a fact, that the existence of one good point is in general sufficient to ensure the possession of another or others. A good shoulder, for instance, rarely goes without good withers, a deep chest, and a well-turned fore leg; but as it sometimes does, I have briefly particularised all that is commonly deemed most essential in the formation of a good useful horse."

#### THE CHIMNEY SWALLOW.

The following curious account of a settlement of Chimney Swallows, we extract from "An Account of the Habits of the Birds of the United States," by J. Audubon, recently published:

"Immediately after my arrival at Louisville, in the State of Kentucky, I became acquainted with the hospitable and amiable Major William Croghan, and his family. While talking one day about birds, he asked me if I had seen the trees in which the swallows were supposed to spend the winter, but which they only entered, he said, for the purpose of roosting. Answering in the affirmative, I was informed that on my way back to town, there was a tree remarkable on account of the immense numbers that resorted to it, and the place in which it stood was described to me. I found it to be a sycamore, nearly destitute of branches, sixty or seventy feet high, between seven and eight feet in diameter at the base, and about five for the distance of forty feet up, where the stump of a broken hollowed branch, about two feet in diameter, made out from the main stem. This was the place at which the swallows entered. On closely examining the tree, I found

it hard, but hollow to near the roots. It was now about four o'clock afternoon, in the month of July. Swallows were flying over Jeffersonville, Louisville, and the woods around, but there were none near the tree. I proceeded home, and shortly after returned on foot. The sun was going down behind the Silver Hills; the evening was beautiful: thousands of swallows were flying closely above me; and three or four at a time were pitching into the hole, like bees hurrying into their hive. I remained, my head leaning on the tree, listening to the roaring noise made within by the birds as they settled and arranged themselves, until it was quite dark, when I left the place, although I was convinced that many more had to enter. I did not pretend to count them, for the number was too great, and the birds rushed to the entrance so thick as to baffle the attempt. I had scarcely returned to Louisville, when a violent thunder storm passed suddenly over the town, and its appearance made me think that the hurry of the swallows to enter the tree was caused by this anxiety to avoid it. I thought of the swallows almost the whole night, so anxious had I become to ascertain their number, before the time of their departure should arrive.

"Next morning I rose early enough to reach the place long before the least appearance of day-light, and placed my head against the tree. All was silent within. I remained in that posture probably twenty minutes, when suddenly I thought the great tree was giving way, and coming down upon me. Instinctively I sprang from it, but when I looked up to it again, what was my astonishment to see it standing as firm as ever. The swallows were now pouring out in a black continued stream. I ran back to my post, and listened in amazement to the noise within, which I could compare to nothing else than the sound of a large wheel revolving under a powerful stream. It was yet dusky, so that I could hardly see the hour on my watch, but I estimated the time which they took in getting out at more than thirty minutes. After their departure, no noise was heard within, and they dispersed in every direction with the quickness of thought.

"I immediately formed the project of examining the interior of the tree, which, as my kind friend, Major Croghan, had told me, proved the most remarkable I had ever met with. This I did, in company with a hunting associate. We went provided with a strong line and a rope, the first of which we, after several trials, succeeded in throwing across the broken branch. Fastening the rope to the line we drew it up, and pulled it over until it reached the ground again. Provided with the longest cane we could find, I mounted the tree by the rope, without accident, and at length seated myself at ease on the broken branch; but my labour was fruitless, for I could see nothing through the hole, and the cane, which was about fifteen feet long, touched nothing on the sides of the tree within that could give any information. I came down fatigued and disappointed.

"The next day I hired a man, who cut a hole at the base of the tree. The shell was only eight or nine inches thick, and the axe soon brought the inside to view, disclosing a matted mass of exuviae, with rotten feathers reduced to a kind of mould, in which, however, I could perceive fragments of insects and quills. I had a passage cleared, or rather bored through this mass, for nearly six feet. This operation took up a good deal of time, and knowing by experience that if the birds should notice the hole below, they would abandon the tree, I had it carefully closed. The swallows came as usual that night, and I did not disturb them for several days. At last, provided with a dark lantern, I went with my companion about nine in the evening, determined to have a full view of the interior of the tree. The whole was opened with caution. I scrambled up the sides of the mass of exuviae, and my friend followed. All was perfectly silent. Slowly and gradually I brought the light of the lantern to bear on the sides of the hole above us, when we saw the swallows clinging side by side, covering the whole surface of the excavation. In no instance did I see one above another. Satisfied with the sight, I closed the lantern. We then caught and killed with as much care as possible more than a hundred, stowing them away in our pockets and bosoms, and slid down into the open air."



INCH CASTLE, CO. KILDARE.

The castle which our woodcut represents, is situated about three miles north-east of Athy, in the parish of Moone, and union of Timolin, and barony of East Narragh and Rheban. It was built by De Vesey, in the reign of King John, and afterwards enlarged by the sixth earl of Kildare, about 1420. There is but one of the towers now remaining, yet, from the extensive foundations, it must have been a place of considerable importance. The land in the neighbourhood lies remarkably flat, with the exception of two ridges that run nearly parallel northward from the castle, with a marsh lying between them.

It was on those heights the armies of Ormond and Mountgarrett, in 1642, marched in sight of each other the evening previous to the battle of Kilrush; that of Ormond on the high grounds of Ardsclull, Fontstown, and Kilrush; whilst the rebel army, under Mountgarrett, and attended by the Lords Dunboyne and Ikerrin, Roger Moore, Hugh Byrne, and other leaders of Leinster, proceeded in the same direction, along the height of Birtown, Ballyndrum, Glassealy, and Narraghmore. Mountgarrett having the advantage in numbers, and anxious for battle, out-marched Ormond's forces, and posted himself on Bull-hill and Kilrush, completely intercepting Ormond's further progress to Dublin: a general engagement became unavoidable. The left wing of the Irish was broken by the first charge; the right, animated by their leaders, maintained the contest for some time, but eventually fell back on a neighbouring eminence, since called Battlemount; here they broke, fled, and were pursued with great slaughter across the grounds they had marched over the day before. This victory was considered of so much consequence, that Ormond was presented by the English Government with a jewel, value £500.

Indeed the country for miles around Inch Castle has many historical connexions; to the east can be seen the much spoken of Rath of Mullimast, the ancient Carmen, or the enclosed place, which was the *Naasteighan*, where the states of the southern parts of Leinster met. It is situated on a high and gently sloping hill, and near it are sixteen little conical mounts, on which, it is supposed, the chiefs sat in council. Carmen was anathematized in the sixth century, and the place of assemblage of the chiefs, was then removed to the present Naas, one of the shire towns of the county. It takes its present name, Mullimast or *Mullach Mastean*, (the moat of decapitation) from the base conduct of some adventurers in the sixteenth century, who having overrun part of the neighbouring country, were resisted by the Irish chieftains that had properties on the Leix (Queen's county) side of the river Barrow. However, in order to have a final settlement of their differences, it was proposed by the adventurers, that a conference should be held at Carmen, which was agreed to; and on New Year's day, 1577, the chiefs of the Barrow side repaired to the place, where they were treacherously made prisoners and beheaded. Sixty years since a hole was shewed, where it was said the heads of the betrayed were buried; at that period it was twenty feet deep; it is now nearly closed. The successful assassins took possession of their victims' properties, and the barony bears